Volume II, No. 11 ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ November 1954

BULLETIN OF THE HISTORY OF DENTISTRY

official monthly publication of
American Academy of the History of Dentistry

ANNUAL MEETING OF A.A.H.D.

R/ The third annual meeting of the American Academy of the History of Dentistry was held, as scheduled, November 5, at the McAllister Hotel, Miami. John E. Gurley was chosen president-elect, and William N. Hodgkin was installed as president. The other incumbent officers were retained; namely, Harold L. Faggart as secretary; Milton B. Asbell as vice-president; and G. B. Denton as editor. Three honorary members were elected: J. Menzies Campbell of Scotland; Frederick C. Waite of Cleveland; and L. Pierce Anthony of Chicago.

The papers in the morning program were presented before the Academy as listed in the September issue of the Bulletin. The dinner speaker, not previously announced in the Bulletin, was Charlton W. Tabeau, chairman of the history department of the University of Miami. Under the title "Florida is different", he presented an interesting narrative of the obstacles which had to be overcome in the progress of that commonwealth.

PROCEEDINGS OF FIRST NATIONAL DENTAL ORGANIZATION

R/ The most important feature of the Academy meeting was the announcement made by Van B. Dalton, chairman of the research committee, that the original manuscript Minute Book of the American Society of Dental Surgeons is in the Research Library of the Children's Hospital in Cincinnati. These minutes, extending from 1840 to 1856, are significant since they give a complete record of the first dental society of national pretensions throughout its existence.

A thorough study of this document has not yet been made, but from information furnished by Dr. Dalton, it is possible to give some external facts with regard to the physical features of the manuscript and its history. The Minute Book is a leather bound volume of 322 pages 8 by 12 inches in size, well preserved, with the words "American Society of Dental Surgeons" stamped on the cover.

Since the American Society of Dental Surgeons was in many respects associated with the East--all of its seventeen meetings with the exception of one, the fifteenth which took place in Cincinnati in 1855, being held in that part of the country--it may seem strange that the official record of its proceedings found its way into the possession of a Midwestern city institution. Several of the mem-

bers of the Society were also members of the Mississippi Valley Association of Dental Surgeons founded in 1844. Therefore, the latter organization was probably looked upon as the natural repository for these minutes when the American Society disbanded in 1856, and this volume probably remained with the Mississippi Valley Association until that organization also discontinued in 1896. It passed into the hands of H. T. Smith, many years dean of the Ohio College of Dental Surgery in Cincinnati until the school was closed in 1926. Dr. Smith bequeathed his library, including this Minute Book, to the Research Library of the Children's Hospital, where it now reposes.

The American Journal of Dental Science published reports of the annual meetings of the American Society of Dental Surgeons throughout the latter's existence. A thorough collation of the Minute Book with these reports has not been completed, but a casual comparison of extracts furnished by Dr. Dalton with the summaries in the Journal indicates that the manuscript includes passages and actions of the Society not previously known to dental historians.

The document is available for study by interested persons at the library of the Children's Hospital.

NEW HONORS FOR AN HONORARY MEMBER

R/ In addition to being elected an honorary member of the A.A.H.D. at the last meeting, Dr. J. Menzies Campbell will soon receive the distinction of Honorary Fellow in Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in recognition of his contributions to dental history. Dr. Campbell is also an honorary member of La Société française de l'histoire de l'art dentaire. As reported earlier in the Bulletin, Dr. Campbell was unable to be present and receive the degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Toronto in 1952.

An account of Dr. Campbell's library and museum is published in the November issue of J.A.D.A., p. 751, in the "News from Great Britain". Recently, he has presented to the library and museum of Baltimore College of Dental Surgery two items relating to the life of Eleazer Gidney, who is remembered as the dentist who lent his excellent dental library to the editors of the American Journal of Dental Science in 1839. The items presented are 1) plans for Gidney's wood and pulp machinery for making paper and 2) a volume of poems by Eleazer's son Richard, published in 1857.

THE EARLY USE OF NITROUS OXIDE ANESTHESIA

R/ In a number largely devoted to nitrous oxide anesthesia in dentistry, Medicine Illustrated (8:419-428 July 1954) includes an article by Frank Coleman on "The History of Nitrous Oxide Anesthesia". Interesting illustrations accompany the article.